

**Notice of Allowability**

Application No.

09/923,610

Examiner

Martin Lerner

Applicant(s)

ROSE, GEORG

Art Unit

2626

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--**

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to Request for Continued Examination (RCE) filed 05 April 2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1 to 3, 5, and 7 to 9.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some\* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)   | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)            |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                                | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),<br>Paper No./Mail Date _____. |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),<br>Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment                               |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit<br>of Biological Material          | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance   |
|   | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____.   |

### EXAMINER'S OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Independent claims 1, 7, and 8 are allowable because the prior art of record does not disclose or reasonably suggest the combination of storing entries of company names and variants of company names in a database, where the variants include at least one of mix-ups of company names, colloquial formulations of company names, abbreviations of company names, and acronyms of company names for speech recognition, and certain words defined a priori are not taken into account when a word sequence is compared with database entries.

*Sukkar ('778)* discloses a speech recognition system for storing company names. *Chao Chang et al.* suggests variants on a company name "IBM" of "international business machines incorporated" and "international business machines", but does not disclose that certain words defined a priori are not taken into account when a word is compared to entries of the database. *Chao Chang et al.* provides slots for necessary words, but does not define words a priori that are not taken into account. Still, it is known in the prior art of keyword searching, and speech recognition, too, for certain words to be defined as stop words, where stop words are not taken into account for a search or speech recognition. (*Burkey et al.*) However, the prior art of record does not reasonably suggest a desirability of defining stop words for company names so as to provide for recognition of variants of company names. Applicant's Specification, Page 1, Lines 5 to 12, notes certain problems with recognizing company names, and sets

forth a solution for reducing an error rate for recognizing a company name. The prior art of record does not disclose or reasonably suggest a combination for defining stop words of company names so as to reduce an error rate for speech recognition and to recognize variants of company names.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Martin Lerner whose telephone number is (571) 272-7608. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30 AM to 6:00 PM Monday to Thursday.

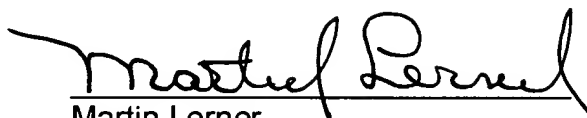
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David R. Hudspeth can be reached on (571) 272-7843. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should

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you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

ML  
4/17/06

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Martin Lerner". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Martin Lerner  
Examiner  
Group Art Unit 2626

Replacement Sheet  
Reply to Final Office Action of 8/25/05

S/N 09/923,610

1/1

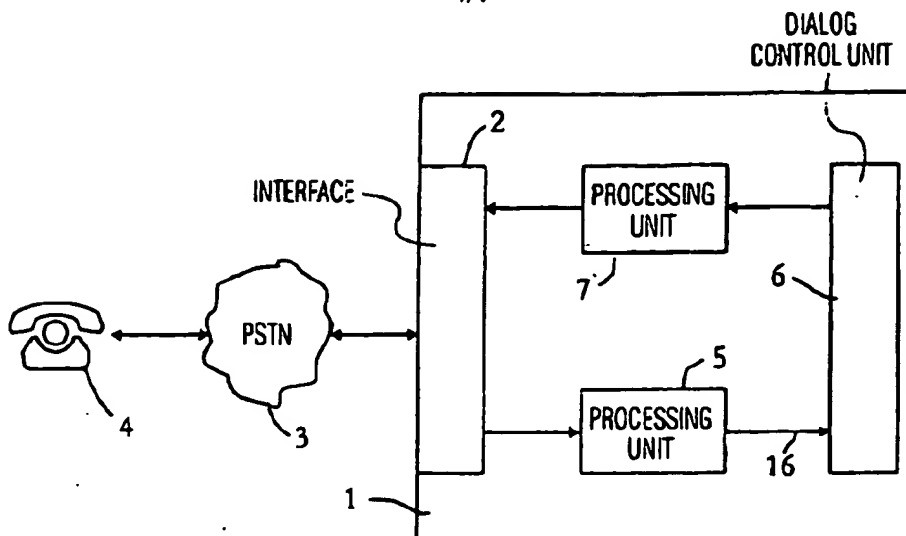


FIG. 1

ENTRY  
APPROVED  
01/12/06  
ME

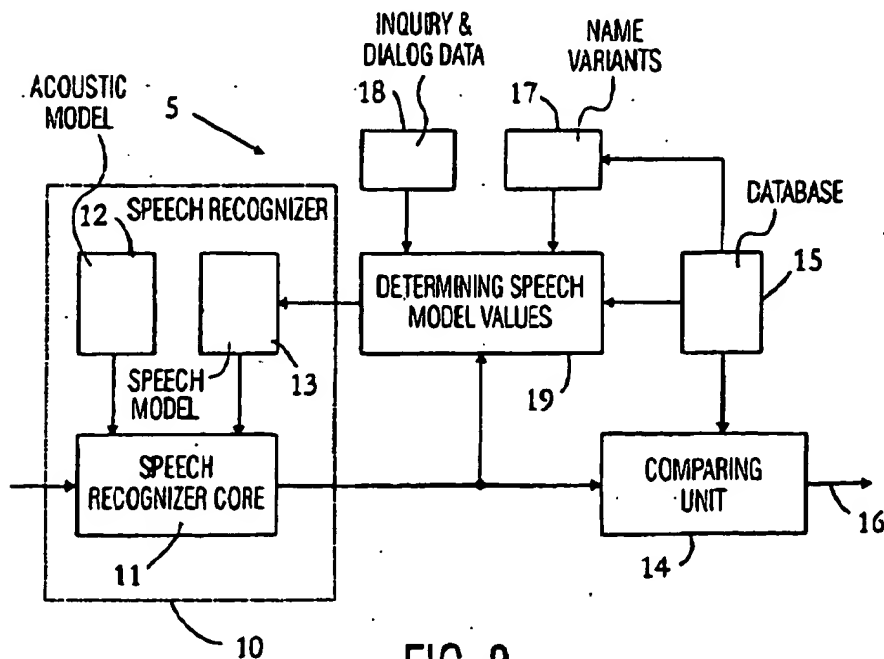


FIG. 2

RECEIVED  
10/3/2005 9:10:38 AM [Eastern Daylight Time] \* SVR:USPTO-EFXRF-6/25 \* DNIB:2738300 \* CSID:631 665 5101 \* DURATION (mm-ss):03-40